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Shellgame, 1960

Montana State University (Missoula, Mont.). Montana Masquers (Theater group)

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FIFTY-SIXTH SEASON
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

and

MONTANA MASQUERS

present

the premier production

of

SHELLGAME

a burlesque

by DOUGLAS BANKSON

Directed by DR. BANKSON

RICHARD H. JAMES, Jr., Designer and Technical Director

OCTOBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 1960

Masquer Theater

CAST

Marion Buck, called Marty	Robert McKinnon
Frances Buck, called Franny	Sara Grey
Francis Cunkle, called Franky	Wayne Veeneman
Marian Cunkle	Suzy Cook McKinnon

The action takes place in the Bucks' and the Cunkles' adjoining
back yards. It is Spring.

SCENES

Act I Late afternoon on a Spring Day.
Act II Later the same night.
Act III Scene 1 Still later the same night.
Scene 2 Another Spring.

There will be a ten-minute intermission following Act I and Act II.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Bill Lensing
Scenery	Dick Willis, Bill Lensing, Tam Scriven, Ron Stevens, Margaret Maxson
Lighting	Marjorie Shjeflo
Sound	Bill Lensing
Costumes	Sarah James, Sidney Malouf, Margaret Maxson, Jean Madsen
Properties	Tam Scriven, Desiree Collette
Make-up	Claudette Johnson
House Manager	Bryan Alexander
Box Office Manager	Ray Maidment
Photography	Cyrile Van Duser

THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE . . .

A major function of any university drama department is to encourage the writing of plays and to assume the most important obligation of seeing that they are produced. For only through actual production can any playwright test the strength and weakness of his art form. Playwriting at Montana State University has received new impetus since the fall of 1959 when Douglas Bankson joined the Drama department staff to teach courses in dramatic literature and playwriting. Since his arrival, the Department of Drama and Montana Masquers have presented more than a dozen original one-act plays, written, staged, acted and directed by MSU students. Such activity has brought new interest in theater and gratifying educational rewards to all those individuals involved.

In addition to offering students the essential opportunity to see their own work in production, any university department which deals with creative work (and all do) should provide opportunity for members of the staff to continue to pursue their work. Such pursuit enriches teacher and student. All great universities encourage such activity. MSU is no exception. Individual staff members today are working in science, the liberal arts, in law, journalism, business administration, education, the fine arts—to explore problems long puzzling to man.

Douglas Bankson explores man's often tragic inability to communicate. Using farce, which often merges into burlesque, as his technique, Bankson is determined to make us laugh about—and perhaps reflect upon—our own state of existence in a world filled with haste and confusion. In necessarily startling language and using the deaf turtle as his symbol, he asks if we can truly hear each other. *SHELLGAME* is in the tradition of Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco and other—mostly European playwrights—who are ripping aside the realistic, conventional pattern of the well-made play which has so long dominated our theater. *SHELLGAME* is hilarious. It is side-splitting in its spotlighting of our animal drives. It is frank. It is sincere.



Douglas Bankson

Designer and technical director Richard James through his original setting has underscored the philosophical points Dr. Bankson expresses with words and action. Together with a University cast and crew they have created an original stage piece. It is with great pride that the Department of Drama and Montana Masquers present the premier production of *SHELLGAME*.

FIRMAN H. BROWN, Jr.
Chairman, Department of Drama